WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   An XML-based tag for a visual cue associated to a visual element of an XML-based multimedia presentation, comprising:
an element attribute that defines visual appearance of the cue;
an element attribute that defines spatial characteristics of the cue; and
an element attribute that defines temporal characteristics of the cue.

2.   An XML-based tag, as defined in Claim 1, further wherein temporal characteristics include begin time, end time, and duration.

3.   An XML-based tag, as defined in Claim 1, wherein visual appearance includes color.

4.   An XML-based tag, as defined in Claim 1, wherein visual appearance includes shape.

5.   An XML-based tag, as defined in Claim 1, wherein spatial characteristics include position.

6.   An XML-based tag, as defined in Claim 1, wherein the XML-based tag for the visual cue is nested within an XML-based element that defines the associated visual element.

7.   In an XML-based browser that displays synchronized multimedia presentations to a user, a method for processing an XML-based tag for a visual cue associated with a multimedia element, comprising:
storing information from the tag concerning the multimedia element to which the visual cue is

associated, together with information from the tag concerning shape and spatial and temporal characteristics of the cue; and

in synchronization with display of the multimedia element, displaying the visual cue in the shape specified, and in the spatial and temporal relationships specified by the spatial and temporal characteristics.

8.   An XML-based browser, as defined in Claim 7, further wherein temporal characteristics include begin time, end time, and duration.

9.   An XML-based browser, as defined in Claim 7, wherein visual appearance includes color.

10.   An XML-based browser, as defined in Claim 7, wherein visual appearance includes shape.

11.   An XML-based browser, as defined in Claim 7, wherein spatial characteristics include position.

12.   An XML-based browser, as defined in Claim 7, wherein the XML-based tag for the visual cue is nested within an XML-based element that defines the associated visual element.